



# **REPAIR MY HOUSE**

## **St. Catherine of Alexandria Capital Campaign Update (January 2026)**

It has now been a little over a year since our parish's capital campaign, "Repair My House", was held in our parish. You might recall that there were eight projects that could no longer be put off in terms of repairing/replacing. I was so gratified and proud of our parish's response to the campaign, and the financial gifts to the campaign have been coming in as pledged - thank you!

One year later, all of the ten projects have been started, and most of them have been completed. There are a few things still to do which will have to wait until this next spring/summer. With that in mind, I wish to let you know the current status concerning the projects and the monies spent on them.

(The "estimates" were amounts given by prospective contractors to do the work that was known and could be estimated. Some of the projects were virtually impossible to estimate in advance what it might cost as it could not be known how extensive the job might be until the work got started - so a "guess-timate" was given for us to have at least some idea of a prospective cost - and we wanted to err on the high side just in case . . . )

### **ROOFS**

The first of the projects had three parts: the roofs on the parish office building, the rectory, and the church. All have been completed.

**Parish Office Building** - This was completed in August 2024, before the capital campaign was started. It had to be. It could not wait until the summer of 2025 - and thank goodness we did it when we did! Fargo Roofing and Siding did the work on all the flat roofs that make up the building that contains the parish office, school, religious education rooms, and daycare. When the old roofs were taken off, as we surmised, "surprises" were found underneath and some extra work had to be done - but thank goodness it was found and it was done. With the roof already leaking in places at that time, can you imagine the mess we might have had if this hadn't been completed before the big storm this past June? Haven't had a leak since . . .

*Estimate: \$316,000*

*Final cost: \$345,000*



**Rectory** - This also was completed in August 2024, in advance of the capital campaign, as it too had leaks that showed in bad storms - and again, thank goodness we did it sooner than later. Dick Lorenze roofing took on this job - it was a bit more complicated than most roofs, if you notice all the different sections and "valleys" that the roof has, but he and his workers did a fine job.

*Estimate: \$27,000*

***Final cost: \$27,000***

**Church roof / steeples** - Fargo Roofing and Siding came back in May of '25, and it was quite the show to watch their workers climbing up and around and on top of and hanging off of and "craning" up to the steeples. With the old wooden shakes already falling off in high winds, could you imagine what the big storm of June would have done if it hadn't been replaced? The Lord God's providence was a blessing concerning this.

*Estimate: \$230,000*

***Final cost: \$255,000***

### **FLOORING**

All of the flooring in the school/religious education/daycare building needed to be replaced. (None of the floorings in the "old school" building/parish office was replaced.) LaValle Flooring did this work in the first half of 2025, starting with the daycare flooring in the lower level before it opened in June, and finishing up with the school/RE floors during the summer. Not only was it needed - but it also looks wonderful.

*Estimate: \$100,000*

***Final cost: \$89,000***

### **TELEPHONE SYSTEM**

The parish's obsolete phone system needed to be completely replaced before it broke down as it could no longer be fixed or parts found for it. Dickey Rural Network installed the new phone system in winter 2025.

*Estimate: \$9,200*

***Final cost: \$9,000***

### **UNDERFLOOR DRAINAGE**

You might recall this was the "nice" way of saying we needed to clean out and see about repairing the sewer pipe leading out from the parish hall kitchen to the sewer lines in the city to the west. We really had no idea what might be found, and we wanted to try to do this with interior cleanout before we would have to tear up the parish hall floor - what a mess that would have been! Fortunately, that did not have to happen. H.A. Thompson out of Bismarck came this past June and spent a number of days doing their thing. A thorough cleaning showed the pipe itself was actually in pretty good shape - just lots of clogs and build-up from perhaps decades of use. No backups since!

*Guess-timate - up to \$50,000*

***Final cost: \$26,500***



### **CHURCH STEPS**

What began with some needed repairs of the masonry walls on each side of the front steps of the church turned into a much bigger job when it was opened up and looked into. More stabilization was needed than was thought, and some of the water issues in the parish basement were found to originate from here, and that was taken care of. This was another providential occurrence concerning something that might have seemed "minor" and an "add-on" to the much bigger projects, but became something that we can be grateful was discovered and dealt with.

*Estimate: \$6,000*

***Final cost: \$7,500***

### **WATER INFILTRATION**

This was the other major water issue in our parish basement, near the Sacred Heart Room. When big rains come, soaked carpet appears and we don't exactly know where the water comes from and how it gets in. We have only done one thing up this point: the A/C units outside the new elevator addition were moved away, and a deep trench along the east foundation wall was dug. A crack in the foundation was discovered and repaired, sheathing was put in along that section of wall, and rock was dumped in the trench for deeper drainage for any rainwater. That was done this past October before the snow fell. Now we will wait and see what happens this spring with the snow melt and any big rains that may come. If that wasn't adequate we will have to come up with "plan B" for dealing with this. So the final bill is not in as of now - hopefully the little spent so far will in fact have done the job - we can hope.

*Guess-timate: up to \$15,000*

***Cost as of now: \$420***

### **PARKING LOT WALL**

This project was also begun later this past year and so is not completed. Badger Loader Services did some cement work on the parking lot surface and its cracks, but the wall itself will have be dealt with this coming summer of '26.

*Guess-timate: up to \$50,000*

***Cost as of now: \$3,800***

### **HVAC**

This was the biggest one: the boiler system that heated the parish office/school/RE/daycare building and gymnasium had to be "retired" and a new HVAC system installed. Bakkegard and Schell took on this massive effort and as of this month it is completed. And - as of this point, all is working well. Whenever a new system is installed in older buildings like these

... you have to wonder how that will work - and look. But frankly, it's better than expected.

*Estimate: \$375,000*

***Final cost: \$375,000***



### **DIOCESE OF FARGO CAPITAL CAMPAIGN - "Living Our Faith"**

Our parish's capital campaign was combined with the capital campaign for the Diocese of Fargo. That campaign has been largely successful over the entire diocese, and its projects (which include the renovation of Maryvale Retreat Center outside of Valley City) are moving forward.

*Our parish goal: \$347,000*

***Our contribution thus far: \$86,740***

- Our parish has made two of eight payments over four years;
- we have given 25% of our goal

### **GUIDANCE IN GIVING**

Finally, the Diocese of Fargo enlisted "Guidance in Giving", a company to assist with its capital campaign, and our parish used them also to assist with our parish combined campaign. They were of great assistance and are one of the reasons our parish campaign was successful.

***Cost for services of GIG: \$72,000***

***Cost for printed materials: \$5,300***

- all have been paid

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### **TOTALS (as of 12/31/25)**

Estimated goal for campaign:	\$1,602,500
Pledges made:	\$1,813,971
Gifts received:	\$1,196,860
Pledges remaining:	\$617,111
<b>Bills paid thus far:</b>	<b>\$1,302,260</b>

**LOAN** - Our parish has taken out two loans to pay for the costs of the projects:

- \$475,000 in June/Sept '24 - paid off in Nov '24
- \$59,000 in July '25 - paid off in August '25

As of this writing, our parish has no debt!

**Final Thought:** As of this writing, all looks well. However, all the projects are not fully completed, and so neither are the final costs - e.g., whatever may still need to be done with the parking lot wall and water infiltration, as well as the final six payments of our parish's part in the diocesan campaign.

Gratitude and blessings to our parish family and all who gave to make this possible! We have certainly done our part to "Repair (His) House."

